What Oswald Knew

For weeks, I have been reading reports about Edward Jay Epstein's book on Lee Harvey Oswald (BOOKS, April 10). As a former USAF U-2 intelligence officer and unit historian, I find absurd the suggestion that Oswald could have provided the Russians with any information that would have assisted in shooting down Gary Powers. Indeed, all Oswald is likely to have known about the U-2 was its rate of ascent and its cruising altitude. The latter was well known to the Russians, who tracked all U-2 overflights on their own radar. The former is irrelevant, since the U-2 reached cruising altitude well in advance of reaching hostile airspace and maintained that altitude throughout its mission.

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